

Through the Army, Lt. Col. Munir has seen the world. In his current role as Office of Defense Cooperation chief at our Embassy in Tirana, he was an instrumental component in coordinating the arrival of our group of Afghan refugees.

Simply put, the success of our mission depended on tireless commitment and devotion to the cause. Lt. Col. Munir spent long hours alongside Ambassador Kim to ensure that everything would proceed smoothly. His meticulous attention to detail was second to none, and I am forever indebted to him for his effort.

Lt. Col. Munir will tell you that his work to receive and shelter Afghan allies is simply an extension of Albanian warmth and hospitality. As a career officer, he would also tell you that it's what he's learned throughout his time in uniform, no matter the mission or the challenge, it's his job to adapt and overcome. These two traits, humility for the work and a determination to carry it out, define Lt. Col. Munir in everything he does.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Lt. Col. Erol Munir's willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty in our effort to evacuate Afghan allies from Kabul and support them in their new life. For his laser-like focus in responding to requests for assistance and for his efficient advocacy to facilitate the arrival of vulnerable Afghans to safe haven, I submit these words—may they stand as a tribute to his dedicated service when the moment called for it most.

HONORING REVEREND DELMUS BRUCE

HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK" FLEISCHMANN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Delmus Bruce of Pioneer, Tennessee, and recognize a lifetime of service to his community.

In his career, Rev. Bruce has officiated more than 200 weddings, presided over 657 funerals, has baptized 1,252 congregants, and has delivered an astonishing 7,010 sermons. Rev. Bruce has also overseen the construction of a new church in 1985 and additional physical growth of the church to include a fellowship hall and a family life center.

As pastor of the Stanfield Church of God, Rev. Bruce has traveled to the Holy Land twice, traveled to Egypt, and has traveled to Hawaii in mission service to the Church of God. In his own community, Rev. Bruce has served as a pillar of faith for more than fifty years.

Rev. Bruce married the love of his life, Mrs. Rose Baird Bruce, on April 19, 1958, and they have been happily married for 63 wonderful years. Their family spans four generations and includes three children, four grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

I am privileged to recognize Rev. Bruce for his many years of distinguished service and dedication.

CONGRATULATING COLUMBIA RIVER HIGH SCHOOL'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE WASHINGTON STATE 2A CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the Columbia River High School's volleyball team for winning the Washington state 2A championship. After a dominant season, Columbia River defeated rival Ridgefield in four sets to claim their first state title in the sport in over 20 years. The COVID-19 pandemic limited many of our prep athletes from competing during the 2020 season, yet high school athletes like the girls on the Columbia River volleyball team have demonstrated the ability to adapt and persevere in these competitions. For the Rapids, that perseverance has paid off in a big way.

Competing in prep sports is a wonderful opportunity to learn lessons in discipline, focus, team play, work ethic, and comradery. Winning a state title is a momentous achievement this team can be proud of for the rest of their lives, and I have confidence they will find success using the lessons they learned while competing in volleyball. Go Rapids.

HONORING DANIELA COOPER

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a member of our team who was instrumental in the safe evacuation of Afghan allies and partners alike, Ms. Daniela Cooper.

Service is ingrained in Ms. Cooper's DNA—she has honorably served our country as a Marine and as a Foreign Service Officer. True to her relentless grit and instinctive nature for problem-solving, she worked with a group of others to assist with the requests that were flooding in as Afghanistan started to fall. No one asked her to do this, no one tasked her to do this, but she was part of a team that knew that skills and resources needed to be combined to help vulnerable allies in their time of need.

When we added Ms. Cooper to our ragtag band of individuals working to get Afghans out, it was the first time that I felt optimistic that we could find some success in the midst of a chaotic evacuation. When we got our group of buses in a caravan through the airport gates, Daniela worked through an entire night and countless obstacles to ensure that our group was able to get on a flight.

Without her assistance planning the flight, our mission could not have worked out in the way that it did. Thanks to her efforts throughout a gauntlet of several days in late August, over 100 Afghans have a new lease on life and can now look towards the future with their families and feel hope. I will always believe we were fated to meet over breakfast two years ago so that we could do the work we did.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Ms. Daniela Cooper for her willingness to go above and

beyond the call of duty in our effort to evacuate Afghan allies from Kabul and support them in their new life. For her work ethic, which earned the profound respect and admiration of our team, and for her refusal to give up until every last person in our group was on a flight to safety, I submit these words—may they stand as a tribute to her dedicated service when the moment called for it most.

RECOGNIZING ITALY A. GREENE

HON. TOM RICE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Italy A. Greene's 100th birthday.

Mr. I.A. Greene was born on December 25, 1921, in Williamsburg County. He graduated from Wilson High School in 1941 and enrolled in higher education at South Carolina State College. His time in college was interrupted in 1942 when he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force where he served for three years and was honorably discharged in 1945.

Mr. I.A. Greene supported his local community by working in both the Georgetown and Darlington County school systems as a teacher, chairman, and principal. Once his long tenure as an educator ended, he continued to serve his community through various organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, Red Cross, United Way, Billy Hardee Homes for Boys, The Lord Cares Ministry, St. John's Heritage Foundation, and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Additionally, Mr. I.A. Greene played a large part in the growth and upkeep of the Bethel AME Church in Darlington. He taught bible study, Sunday School, and educated new members of the church for many years. Mr. Greene is a shining example of a true American patriot and an amazing role model for the people of South Carolina.

Madam Speaker, I join the people of South Carolina in recognizing and congratulating Mr. Italy A. Greene on his 100th birthday and wish him many more happy birthdays ahead.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF LIBERTY-BENTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR WINNING THE DIVISION III STATE VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ROBERT E. LATTI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Mr. LATTI. Madam Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise to pay a very special tribute to an outstanding high school volleyball team in Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. The young women of the Liberty-Benton High School volleyball team have represented their school ably on their way to becoming the Champions of the Division III State Volleyball Championship tournament. The Liberty-Benton Eagles overcame the challenges of intense competition on the path to reach the championship playoffs, capping off an outstanding season with their noteworthy performance.